



DCF Provider News: A Resource for Wisconsin Shares & YoungStar Providers

MyWIChildCare Project on Track for Phase 1 Launch in 2016



The MyWIChildCare EBT (formerly Parent Pay) Project is on track for implementation of phase 1 in October of 2016. Phase 1 includes child care providers and parents located in Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Monroe, Pepin, Trempealeau, Vernon, and La Crosse counties. Phase 2 is also on target in Milwaukee County and the rest of Wisconsin for February of 2017. The DCF Bureau of Information Technology Services team has begun the development phase of the project. Please visit our webpage for the latest information or contact information if you have questions: <http://MyWIChildCare.wi.gov>

What is MyWIChildCare?

MyWIChildCare will replace the current payment process for Wisconsin Shares eligible families where providers directly bill the state after children attend the program. The new system will issue MyWIChildCare Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) cards to Wisconsin Shares families who will initiate payments to providers for child care provided to their children.

MyWIChildCare Training

Online training will be available in the summer of 2016 for parents and providers. The training will instruct parents on how to make payments using the FIS vendor website, <http://www.ebtEDGE.com>, the FIS IVR (Interactive Voice Response) telephone system, and the optional Point of Sale (POS) device. (The state has contracted with FIS, an EBT vendor.) Parents and providers will learn how to verify that payments have been made and how to use reports to monitor their account. In addition to the online training, local agencies will host parent outreach sessions in the late summer and fall of 2016. The locations and dates for the sessions are:

- La Crosse – August 6, 2016
- Superior – September 17, 2016
- Madison – October 22, 2016
- Kenosha – November 12, 2016

Sessions are also being planned for the Fox Valley and Milwaukee, but dates and locations are not yet finalized.

Visit <http://MyWIChildCare.wi.gov> to read the latest updates on this exciting project.

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Training Corner

SFTA Training Opportunities
Supporting Families Together Association offers a variety of trainings and consultations to help you sharpen your professional skills. See their training calendar here: <http://supportingfamilies.together.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Training-Calendar.pdf>

WECA Training Opportunities
In addition to many in-person training opportunities, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association offers a free online training – *Cultivating Childhood Wellness Through Gardening*. See a full calendar of upcoming training opportunities here: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/training/>

The Registry Training Opportunities
Visit The Registry training tab to find the current class listings in your region of the state. You'll find in-person and web-based learning opportunities here: <https://www.the-registry.org/myregistry/>



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Fingerprint-Based Background Checks for Employees



Remember that employees hired to work in a child care center participating in the YoungStar program after January 1, 2016 will need to have a fingerprint-based background check completed within 60 days of beginning to work with children.

The results of a fingerprint-based background check may be used to replace the DOJ name-based check for the year after the check was done. After that time has passed, a name-based check will need to be done annually. For example, if the fingerprint check was run on July 1, 2015, a name-based background check will need to be completed by July 1, 2016. Licensing specialists will monitor for compliance with the requirement for an annual background check. For more information on how to conduct fingerprint-based background checks please see the following:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/cbc/fp-employee-trng.pdf>

The Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant provides funding to the state for child care activities such as subsidy, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships, YoungStar, licensing, etc. This block grant was recently reauthorized and contains many new provisions. One of the new provisions will require that **all** persons working in a child care center have a fingerprint background check. The Department still has many questions about how the new federal requirements will be implemented. More information will be provided later in 2016.

(Milwaukee County Providers Only)

MECA Corner

Inclusion Credential Classes



The Special Needs Support Program is offering Inclusion Credential college classes on Saturdays in Milwaukee in June-August. They are accelerated college classes for three college credits. If you are eligible, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships can assist with paying for the tuition. Saturday classes help minimize the disruption to your family and work while improving your skills. For more information, call Ann at 414-289-6977 or email at ann.farah@wisconsin.gov.

Are you interested in entering your attendance online in CCPI instead of filling out a paper form every attendance period? Contact Joe Tietjen at 414-289-6958 or Michelle Balistreri at 414-289-5844 for more information.

Providers that already have access to CCPI: Please make sure the email listed in CCPI is accurate and up to date.

Providing Child Care Without a Wisconsin Shares Authorization

Sometimes child care providers care for children and have been told by parents that they are eligible for the child care subsidy, but the child care authorization never comes; other times child care providers are not reimbursed for all of the child care that was provided. This can be avoided by making sure you have an authorization for all child care you provide under the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program.

Example: A child care provider allows a parent to enroll a school-age child in their program before an authorization has been issued. The child care provider believes that the authorization will eventually arrive and that it will be backdated to the first date the child attended.

What Happened: The parent's authorization is delayed because of questions about the hours of employment or some other element of eligibility. Once all of the verification is in and work hours are verified, it turns out that care is not needed because all the parent's verifiable work hours are during school hours, or it turns out that the family is not financially eligible for child care. When this happens, the payment for the care provided without the authorization is a matter between the parent and the child care provider.

Until the child care program has received an authorization for caring for a child, the child care program should collect all payments for services from the family (or work out a payment arrangement). This is a best practice for child care business sustainability.





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Expulsion and Suspension in Early Child Care Programs



Child care providers and families work together to provide the best possible care for their children and communities. When children are expelled or suspended from early child care programs, families and providers are left with many questions regarding the situation. In many circumstances, parents are frustrated and overwhelmed, while providers feel left without any choices for further action besides suspension and expulsion.

Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence in the United States. According to the research of Walter Gilliam PhD, the expulsion rate for children in some early child care settings is three times higher for early child care programs than for kindergarten through high school combined. For some populations that number grows even larger. African American boys are suspended and expelled much more frequently than their white peers. Studies have also shown that children are not usually expelled just once, which leads to greater risk to the child. Children who are frequently expelled or suspended are not as prepared to learn in school, which leads to fewer positive outcomes as adults.

Many in the early child care field know that young children get expelled, but may not know how pervasive it is. There are many reasons why providers would expel a child including behavior issues, overcrowding, and miscommunication with the family. A 2010 survey of 387 Wisconsin child care providers found that 68% had asked a family to leave during their career, and 52% of those providers had asked a family to leave within the last two years.¹ With adequate support, child care providers can prevent some of the behavioral causes to why children are expelled or suspended by providing nurturing and responsive relationships.

Departments at the federal level are acknowledging the need for support. In 2014, the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services created a Joint Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Child Care Settings noting how states can support child care programs and help to prevent expulsion and suspension. Additionally, in 2015 the Joint Policy Statement on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs was released. This statement includes multiple recommendations for support of inclusion efforts, because in many cases children that are expelled or suspended from early care have disabilities or



special needs.

Staff at the Department of Children and Families are reviewing these statements and determining next steps. In general, we know that child care programs that are high-quality have fewer expulsions and suspensions, especially programs that train staff in Wisconsin Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence. A total of 317 reported Pyramid Model trainings were reported in 2014 and providers in every Wisconsin county have attended Pyramid Model trainings.² DCF staff are working collaboratively with other state and local agencies to provide additional support to all children and their caregivers throughout Wisconsin.

Please visit the DCF Early Childhood Inclusion website (<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/default.htm>) for resources on Inclusion.

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Expulsion and Suspension continued from page 3

Check out the links to these Sources!

- See Walter Gilliam PhD explain his research in the #RethinkDiscipline webinar: **Rethink Discipline in Early Care** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfzsfBJzjXk>)
- US Department of Education and Health and Human Services **Joint Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings** (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/fedefforts.html#policy-statement>)
- US Department of Education and Health and Human Services **Joint Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities** (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/inclusion/index.html>)

- For more information about WI Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/social-emotional-competence-sefel-pyramid.php>

Sources

- ¹Irvin-Vitela, L. Supporting Families Together Association. (2010). Child Retention in Wisconsin Child Care Settings: Understanding the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that impact expulsion and retention in early care and education. <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/docs/Retention-Expulsion-Survey-Report-Final-April-26-LBIV.pdf>
- ²Wisconsin Pyramid Model For Social and Emotional Competence 2015 Annual Report. (2015). <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/documents/final2015pannualreport1.pdf>

Exciting changes in REWARD means more people benefitting!

Did you know that as a family or group child care provider, you may be eligible to receive money from the REWARD Wisconsin program? The payments are called “stipends” and are yours to keep. **Even better - new, expanded REWARD eligibility means more of the workforce can benefit!**

For almost 15 years REWARD Wisconsin has been rewarding child care professionals like you for your commitment to the field. Why? Because acknowledging and rewarding your commitment is one of the best ways to reduce turnover, keep good teachers in the classroom and provide children with lifelong benefits.

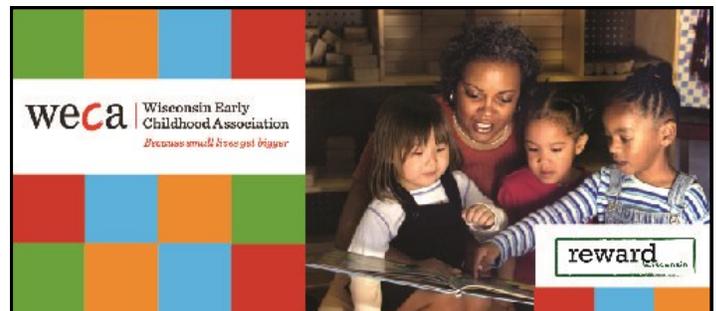
REWARD Wisconsin increases compensation of early childhood professionals, reduces turnover and encourages continued education.

Show your dedication to the field and apply for a REWARD stipend today!

Who can apply?

Eligibility is based on meeting basic employment, education and experience requirements:*

- You must be at Registry Level 7 or above
- You must work at least 20 hours a week



- You must make \$16.50 /per hour or less

**additional eligibilities apply*

Go online or get on the phone!

Download your application at wisconsinearlychildhood.org/reward. Questions? Call 800-783-9322, extension 7249, or email us reward@wisconsinearlychildhood.org.

More information about the REWARD Wisconsin program is available at wisconsinearlychildhood.org.

Thank you for all you do for Wisconsin's future –our children.

**REWARD is funded through the Department of Children and Families*





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Parents Share Their YoungStar Experience

By Supporting Families Together Association



A lot of trust goes into a parent or caregiver's choice of child care. A strong relationship between parents and their child care provider is essential to a child's healthy development, and providers often become a meaningful part of a family's support system. Here is what some Wisconsin families shared about what their program/provider participating in YoungStar means to them:

"As a military family, we get shuffled around Wisconsin a lot for my husband's work, which means a lot of transition for our daughter. Jen made it such an easy, wonderful experience. Jen goes above and beyond to maintain constant communication with us, share funny stories about daily activities, and give consistent updates on our daughter's developmental progress. We receive financial assistance through the military, which requires her to fill out paperwork and submit information every month. Before our daughter started we asked if this would be a problem for Jen, and she didn't even hesitate. She truly loves the children she works with and it shows."

– Kelsi, Jen's Child Care and Preschool, Northern YoungStar Region

"We chose this center because of location, hours, ease of access, and the 5 Star rating. We can't speak highly enough of this center and all they have done for us and our children. They understand that our kids started life out rough and have some things to work through. We fostered our boys for 21 months before our adoption. In April of 2015 we finalized the adoption and three staff members from the center came to our hearing to celebrate with us and the boys. We have been blessed to work with people whom are willing to work through challenging situations and truly care about our children and their success."

– Samantha & Michael, Young Child Development Center, Inc., Northeastern YoungStar Region

"Each of these educators has helped shape our boys' wonderful personalities and encouraged their growth and development. Everyone has always been there to talk about the kids or to give us advice/tips that have helped us at home to become better parents. To have the level of

trust that we have with the staff is so comforting when we are apart from our kids during the day. We are fortunate that our boys can go to a place like the CHILD Center to learn, play, and grow. I know they are better off socially, emotionally, and intellectually."

– Jeffrey, University of Wisconsin: The CHILD Center, Western YoungStar Region

"I see this daycare as a jewel within this community and its families. They have worked very hard to support developmental skills while showing children a fun time in a safe and friendly environment. I am very proud that my child has the opportunity to be in their care. Their dedication is what makes them shine each and every day."



Peladitos in Milwaukee

– Arlene, Peladitos, Milwaukee YoungStar Region

"My child care provider has greatly impacted our lifestyle by working with my work and school schedules. This is a huge benefit to me as a single mother. I am very pleased with the daily hands-on activities; my kids are encouraged to play and learn. After two weeks at Mc Care, I noticed my children's language and behaviors had been changed in a positive way. Our provider has brought us peace and brings us closer together as a family. My child care provider is a part of my family."

– Bao, Mc Care, Northern YoungStar Region

Are you a Wisconsin parent with a child care story to tell? Contact kelly@supportingfamiliesaltogether.org to share your experience with your child's program/provider participating in YoungStar.





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Child Care and ADA



Q: Can a child care provider refuse to accept children with disabilities who are not toilet trained or refuse to assist them with toileting?

A: In the past, children with disabilities have been excluded from child care because of eligibility requirements that children be toilet trained by a specific age. However, the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that eligibility requirements must not have the effect of screening out people with disabilities. Toilet training requirements have this effect because many children with disabilities will never have bowel or bladder control as a result of their disabilities.

Services of a personal nature, including eating, dressing, and toileting are services that need to be provided by the child care provider as these are services normally provided by child care facilities. Child care providers should therefore be prepared to modify these policies to accommodate children with disabilities who need toileting assistance.

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (1997, October). Commonly Asked Questions About Child Care Centers and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Retrieved from <http://www.ada.gov/childqanda.htm>.

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The Good News just got

BETTER

for Credential Scholarships!

There is great financial news for providers pursuing our most popular scholarship model: the credential scholarship!

What's NEW:

- Credential scholarship recipients pay just 5% of their tuition! T.E.A.C.H. will pay the remaining 95%; the sponsor pays nothing.
- Credential scholarship recipients pay just 5% of their books! T.E.A.C.H. will pay the remaining 95%.
- Plus, T.E.A.C.H. will pay 100% of the Commission fee to The Registry.

What stays the SAME:

- The sponsoring center will still provide you with 15 hours of release time per semester, which T.E.A.C.H. will reimburse at the rate of \$12.50 per hour.
- The center still provides a 2% raise or a bonus of \$300 upon completion of a contract. If your sponsor chooses the bonus option, a \$300 bonus from the center plus a \$400 bonus from T.E.A.C.H. enhances your compensation by \$700. Center owners and family child care providers will get the full \$700 from T.E.A.C.H.
- In return, you must still commit to remaining in your program for a year after completion of the contract.

Earning a credential can focus you on a particular area of interest, help you meet YoungStar requirements, or be a step on your path towards earning a degree.

It's easy to learn more!

CALL a T.E.A.C.H. counselor at 800-783-9322 (Option 3)
EMAIL us at teach@wisconsinearlychildhood.org or
LIVE CHAT with T.E.A.C.H. at
<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/>

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